

## TELEGRAPH OPERATED FOR WALL STREET'S BENEFIT

Washington, Oct. 29.—The telegraph is operated principally for the benefit of Wall street. It does not serve the public. That is the indictment which has been brought against the telegraph service as we now know it in this country by the investigations which have been conducted by congressmen proposing to have the government take over the wire services.

More than half the total telegraph business in this country is made up of stock market, poolroom and race track gambling messages. Less than ten per cent of the telegraph business consists of social messages—the kind people write at the desks in the telegraph offices. Newspaper dispatches compose a greater volume, but the principal use of the telegraph is to further gambling—stock and otherwise.

There are something like 25,000 telegraph offices in this country. The U. S. postoffices number 67,000. Very many telegraph offices are located in little out-of-the-way railroad stations. The postoffices, even in the smallest places, are located at a point convenient to the whole population.

In England one may drop into the letter box a stamped telegram. This is picked up by a carrier and immediately telegraphed to its destination. The cost is a cent a word, with 12 cents as the minimum charge. The telegraph is frequently used instead of the telephone for across-the-city messages, so rapid is the service. England owns her own telegraph system and operates it as part of the postoffice. Social messages between Englishmen constitute between 50 and 60 per cent of the total telegraph business; in the United States one never sends a telegram if it is possible to avoid it, and the arrival of a telegram to the average household causes a shiver of apprehension—it usually means death or accident.

The possibilities of social messages

at low cost are unknown to the American public. When Congress-Lewis gets ready to introduce his bill, these and many other pertinent facts will come out.

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## DIARY OF FATHER TIME

The newspaper reporters of the time of Alexander the Great, had there been any, would have had the heaviest day's work of their lives in covering the interesting events that marked the day Alexander was married in 331 B. C., for on that day no less than 20,202 men and women were made husbands and wives.

Alexander had conquered Darius of Persia and he felt that this great achievement was important enough to signalize in a conspicuous manner. Imagine the pride of a conqueror who decides that it can be measured properly only by the wholesale giving and taking in marriage, the like of which the world has never seen.

Alexander himself married Statira, daughter of the conquered king, and decreed 100 of his chief officers should be united to 100 ladies from the noblest Persian and Medean families. In addition to this, he stipulated that 10,000 of his Greek soldiers should marry 10,000 Asiatic women. When everything was settled a vast pavilion was erected. One hundred gorgeous chambers adjoined this for the 100 noble bridegrooms and brides, while for the 20,000 an outer court was enclosed, outside of which tables were spread for the multitude. Each pair had seats and ranged themselves around the regal throne in semi-circles.

Of course, the priest could not marry this vast number of couples in the ordinary way, so Alexander the Great gave his hand to Statira and kissed her, an example all the bridegrooms followed—that is, they kissed their own brides, not Alexander's. This ended the ceremony. Then came the "festival," a debauch which lasted for five days, the like of which has never been equaled since.